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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/676,956	10/02/2000	Danne L. Buchanan	7905.15.1	4478
22428	7590	09/13/2004	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			NGUYEN, NGA B	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3628		

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/676,956	BUCHANAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nga B. Nguyen	3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 27-122 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 27-122 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is the answer to the Amendment filed on June 16, 2004, which paper has been placed of record in the file.
2. Claims 27-122 are pending in this application.

#### ***Election/Restriction***

3. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 27-40, 44-59, 64-79, 84-86, 106-110, 113-115, drawn to a method for deposit processing at a central site a plurality of original checks, classified in class 705, subclass 45.
  - II. Claims 87-100, 103-105, drawn to a method for deposit processing at a central site a plurality of original checks in which the central site comparing at least one deposit parameter that is not an account number to an individual customer limit, classified in class 705, subclass 40.
  - III. Claims 41-43, 60-63, 80-83, 101, 102, 111, 112, 116-122, drawn to a method for processing original checks at a remote site, classified in class 705, subclass 16.
4. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:  
Inventions are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. See MPEP § 806.05(d). In the instant case, invention has separate utility such as:  
Inventions I and II have separate utility such as: the invention I drawn to a method for deposit processing at a central site a plurality of original checks, in contrast, the invention II drawn to a method for deposit processing at a central site a plurality of

original checks in which the central site comparing at least one deposit parameter that is not an account number to an individual customer limit. Therefore, the inventions I and II are shown to be separately usable.

Inventions I and III have separate utility such as: the invention I drawn to a method for deposit processing at a central site a plurality of original checks, in contrast, the invention III drawn to a method for processing original checks at a remote site. Therefore, the inventions I and III are shown to be separately usable.

Inventions II and III have separate utility such as: the invention II drawn to a method for deposit processing at a central site a plurality of original checks in which the central site comparing at least one deposit parameter that is not an account number to an individual customer limit, in contrast, the invention III drawn to a method for processing original checks at a remote site. Therefore, the inventions II and III are shown to be separately usable.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Nga B. Nguyen, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2901. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough, can be reached on (703) 308-0505.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

8. Any response to this action should be mail to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
c/o Technology Center 3600  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

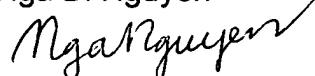
(703) 872-9326, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**or:**

(703) 308-3961 (for informal or draft communications, please  
label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451  
Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Seventh Floor (Receptionist).

Nga B. Nguyen



September 3, 2004